WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A device control device comprising:

        input information recognition and identification means (6, 61, S11) which identifies input information;

        process-item data storing means (D4) which stores a plurality of process items for executing processes corresponding to recognized input information recognized and identified by the input information recognition and identification means;

        transition-definition data storing means (D5) which stores plural pieces of transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process items to another process item; and

        acquisition means (6, 61, 64) which accesses an externally located source (100) of a new process item and/or transition definition data, acquires said new process item and/or transition definition data, and updates an old process item stored in said process-item data storing means or old transition definition data stored in said transition-definition data storing means to said new process item or transition definition data, wherein

        each of said transition definition data includes a condition corresponding to input information, and

        a piece of transition definition data is selected from at least said recognized information and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, based on comparison between said input information input and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, and a status is transitioned to a process item designated by said selected transition definition data.

2.   The device control device according to claim 1, wherein said source compresses and supplies said new process item or said transition definition data, and said acquisition means has means which decompresses said new process item or said transition definition data acquired from said source.

3.   A speech recognition device comprising:

        speech signal recognition and identification means which recognizes and identifies a speech signal to be input;

        process-item data storing means which stores a plurality of process items for executing processes corresponding to a speech signal recognized and identified by the speech signal recognition and identification means;

7   transition-definition data storing means which stores plural pieces of transition

8   definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process items to

9   another process item; and

10   acquisition means which accesses an externally located source of a new

11   process item and/or a transition definition data, acquires said new process item or transition

12   definition data, and updates an old process item stored in said process-item data storing

13   means or old transition definition data stored in said transition-definition data storing means

14   to said new process item or transition definition data, wherein

15   each of said transition definition data includes a condition corresponding to

16   input information, and

17   a piece of transition definition data is selected from at least said recognized

18   information and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, based on

19   comparison between said speech signal input and the conditions of the individual transition

20   definition data, and a status is transitioned to a process item designated by said selected

21   transition definition data.

1   4.   The speech recognition device according to claim 3, wherein said

2   source compresses and supplies said new process item or said transition definition data, and

3   said acquisition means has means which decompresses said new process item or said

4   transition definition data acquired from said source.

1   5.   An agent device comprising:

2   input information recognition and identification means (6, 61, S11) which

3   recognizes and identifies input information to be input;

4   process-item data storing means (D4) which stores a plurality of process items

5   for executing processes corresponding to recognized input information recognized and

6   identified by the input information recognition and identification means;

7   transition-definition data storing means (D5) which stores plural pieces of

8   transition definition data each defining transition from one process item in the plurality of

9   process items to another process item; and

10   acquisition means (6, 61, 64) which accesses an externally located source

11   (100) of a new process item and/or a transition definition data, acquires said new process item

12   or transition definition data, and updates an old process item stored in said process-item data

13 storing means or old transition definition data stored in said transition-definition data storing

14 means to said new process item or transition definition data, wherein

15 each of said transition definition data includes a condition corresponding to

16 input information, and

17 a piece of transition definition data is selected from at least said recognized

18 information and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, based on

19 comparison between said input information input and the conditions of the individual

20 transition definition data, and a status is transitioned to a process item designated by said

21 selected transition definition data.

1 6. The agent device according to claim 5, wherein said source compresses

2 and supplies said new process item or said transition definition data, and said update means

3 has means which decompresses said new process item or said transition definition data

4 acquired from said source.

1 7. A device control method comprising:

2 a process-item data storing step of storing a plurality of process items for

3 executing processes corresponding to input information recognized and identified at an input

4 information recognition and identification step;

5 a transition-definition data storing step of storing plural pieces of transition

6 definition data each having a condition corresponding to input information, and defining

7 transition from one process item in the plurality of process items to another process item;

8 an acquisition and update step of accessing an externally located source of a

9 new process item or transition definition data, acquiring said new process item or transition

10 definition data, and updating an old process item stored at said process-item data storing step

11 or old transition definition data stored at said transition-definition data storing step to said

12 new process item or transition definition data;

13 said input information recognition and identification step of recognizing and

14 identifying input information to be input; and

15 a step of selecting a piece of transition definition data from at least said

16 recognized information and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, based

17 on comparison between said input information input and the conditions of the individual

18 transition definition data, and transitioning a status to a process item designated by said

19 selected transition definition data.

1   8.   A computer program that allows a computer to function as:

2   input information recognition and identification means (6, 61, S11) which

3   identifies input information;

4   process-item data storing means (D4) which stores a plurality of process items

5   for executing processes corresponding to recognized input information recognized and

6   identified by the input information recognition and identification means;

7   transition-definition data storing means (D5) which stores plural pieces of

8   transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process

9   items to another process item; and

10   acquisition means (6, 61, 64) which accesses an externally located source

11   (100) of a new process item and/or transition definition data, acquires said new process item

12   and/or transition definition data, and updates an old process item stored in said process-item

13   data storing means or old transition definition data stored in said transition-definition data

14   storing means to said new process item or transition definition data, and

15   that is structured in such a way that each of said transition definition data

16   includes a condition corresponding to input information, a piece of transition definition data

17   is selected from at least said recognized information and the conditions of the individual

18   transition definition data, based on comparison between said input information input and the

19   conditions of the individual transition definition data, and a status is transitioned to a process

20   item designated by said selected transition definition data.